

**REMARKS**

Claims 1-20 remain in the present application.

**ELECTION/RESTRICTION REQUIREMENT**

The Examiner has imposed a restriction requirement, and requested that Applicants elect one of two identified groups of claims for prosecution in connection with the present application.

The groups of claims are as follows:

**Group I** - Claims 1-11 and 15-17, drawn to a method for the preparation of a silicic acid comprising extrudate; and.

**Group II** - Claims 12-14 and 18-20, drawn to extrudates and a pharmaceutical composition comprising an extrudate.

**APPLICANTS ELECTION**

Applicants respectfully elect Group I, including claims 1-11 and 15-17, without traverse. Applicants reserve the right to file a divisional application for the non-elected claims during the pendency of this application.

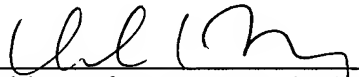
**CONCLUSION**

An early indication of the allowability of claims 1-11 and 15-17 in connection with present application is earnestly solicited.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 08-0750 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16 or 1.17; particularly, extension of time fees.

Respectfully submitted,

HARNESS, DICKEY & PIERCE, PLC

By   
Donald J. Daley, Reg. No. 34,313  
P.O. Box 8910  
Reston, VA 20195  
(703) 668-8000

DJD/EGH:ljs